Mr. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 17,433 under Demand II by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: As there are no other motions I put the Demand to the vote of the House, Demand No. II—Taxes on Income Rs. 17,433 less Rs. 100 cut?

The grant was made.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

PRESIDENT: The House will now pass on to Demand No. III—Excise Department.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 6,81,938 under Demand III—Excise Department.

Motion 84.

The following motion was not moved:

MR. A. C KURIAKOSE:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,052 for establishment by Rs. 50.

Motion 85.

MR. S.PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, I beg to move:

"*To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for Land Acquisition charges.*"

My object in moving this motion, Sir, is to know from the Excise Commissioner what the land to be acquired is for. If there were an asterisk mark or something of that kind, explaining its object, I would not have made this motion. I therefore request the Excise Commissioner to tell us what the charges are for.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Thamaracolam is a small outlying village about four miles distant from Suchindram. There are not very many houses available for occupation by out-siders. We have got—

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Is the amount intended for last year or previous years also?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am coming to that. There is an Assistant Commissioner, 7 Inspectors, and a large staff of peons and Petty Officers. All these persons have to be accommodated there. Government have already sanctioned funds for the construction of quarters for some Petty Officers, peons and Inspectors. They have been constructed. We want quarters for the Assistant Excise Commissioner and the clerks. We have got funds also sanctioned by Government.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know how many acres of land he proposes to acquire now?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not quite sure.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Then, may I know the basis on which he places this figure?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That is only a rough estimate. Probably we may require more funds. Funds have already been sanctioned for the construction of quarters for the Assistant Excise Commissioner and his staff, but the land has not been acquired. So I request funds and that is so far as the officers attached to the eastern side of the lake are concerned. Coming to the western side, we have four factories. I think we have got lands about less than an acre. We may require more lands. It is to meet all these charges, I asked for funds. I feel sure that my friend will be satisfied with the explanation now offered by me.

The point is this. If there are no houses available, near the factories they will have to live far away in distant places and naturally work will suffer. The pans have to be guarded and night guards have to be checked often. For all these purposes, it is absolutely necessary that the Inspecting Officer and his staff should live somewhere close by.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): On hearing the Excise Commissioner now I understand that this is required for acquiring sites for Inspector's quarters. But when I questioned him as to the acreage that has to be acquired or the cost thereof, he is unable to answer me. If officers make Budget amounts, without calculating as to what and how much they want and what will be the probable expenditure, my doubt is whether this amount will be enough for this year, or whether he will come with a supplementary grant in this Council some time hence. However, Sir, as I understand that in Thamaracolam this amount is required for quarters of Inspectors, I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 86.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Sir, I beg to move "*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,009 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.*"

My object in tabling this motion is to press upon the attention of Government the imperative need for improving the manufacture of salt in our country. The aim of every advanced and progressive country should be to see as far as possible that the country is self-sufficient and self-contained in all possible matters and particularly with reference to the production of the necessaries of life. And salt, we know, has become an unavoidable necessity for man. Fortunately for us in Travancore, we possess to a remarkable degree facilities to produce the whole salt that is required for our consumption. But the difficulty is that the Government are not seriously considering to push this industry through, to see, that all possible steps are taken in the matter of developing the salt industry. From the latest Administration Report of the Department, I see that we have about 472 acres of salt pans in South Travancore. And during the year 1103 there was an output of about 10 lakhs of maunds of salt. In 1104 this figure dwindled to 7½ lakhs. The Commissioner may say that this was due to unfavourable seasona

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[Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai.]

conditions. I admit that that may be one of the reasons. But I would say that it is due mainly to the indifference of Government in not effecting sufficient improvements to the salt factories and in not maintaining them properly. I went through the reports for the last three years and I find that the Commissioner has been systematically raising the complaint, that improvements to *Alloms* have been neglected; and further he adds that the fall in the out-put is due to the neglect of the manufacturers and also to the dissensions among the licensees. But I ask, Sir, is it not up to Government to see that these works are not neglected by these licensees? Is it not up to Government also to effect proper improvements to the Salt Factories?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether he has anything to say with regard to the quality of the salt manufactured?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): With regard to that, I might tell the member, that when the same question was being discussed before this House on a former occasion—and I think it was during the Budget Session of 1103—when the quality of the salt came up for discussion the Commissioner said that our home-made salt was examined by Mr. Chacko, the Director of Industries, and was found to be as good as imported salt.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Is the member satsfied with that explanation?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I think we must accept the statement of Mr. Chacko because he is supposed to be an expert in matters industrial so far as our State is concerned. I think we must be satisfied with that.

Then about an interesting instance to show the department in dealing with the improvement of salt factories, I shall refer the House to the observations of the learned Excise Commissioner in the Administration Report of 1102. With regard to one particular *Allom*, Sri Mulakrishnamoni Allom, the Commissioner says:—

"The platform of the factory is not wide enough. To a distance of about 2 furlongs from its northern most extremity it is at a higher level than the flood level of 1101. In the remaining space which is about 3/4 of a mile long, the platform is very low. The rubble masonry protection was raised by about 2 feet, to a distance of about 2 furlongs, from the southern extremity of the highest portion of the platform. In this space, though portions have been raised here and there above the ordinary flood level, the platform is very low in many places with detached storing spaces raised to some extent. Excepting the portions above referred to, the platform is still on the same level as it was before the floods of 1101. The southern bund is meagre and very weak. The Bund between Sreemoolagopalanathan and Sreemoolakrishnamoney is also very weak."

And again in the Report of 1103 he says:—

"The rubble masonry protection wall remains to be raised on the southern most portion of the platform. The southern bund has not at all been repaired and strengthened. There is not sufficient storage and drying space in the factory. Additional platforms have to be constructed along the southern bund and the eastern platform is capable of further widening. The eastern platform also requires raising to prevent flooding."

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And again in the Report for 1104 he says that the works mentioned in the previous years remain to be attended to. So that we see that the learned Excise Commissioner has been raising complaints for the last 3 years with no avail. Sir, the amount of salt consumed in the State is about 12 lakhs of maunds. We see from the amount produced in 1103, we have come very near to the amount we actually want. If the Government would be more alert in the matter and take some more care to improve matters, we shall soon be getting the whole salt for our consumption. Some two years back, the same question was discussed and the learned Commissioner said that he will make some investigations with regard to the possibility of opening some more *alloms*. For that matter the Commissioner should extend his enquiry to other parts of Travancore as well. In former days, in South Travancore, there was a larger area brought under salt cultivation.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : In which part please ?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Near the present *alloms* in South Travancore. I do not remember the exact spot. Some portions have been registered away and so the area under cultivation has dwindled. So, my submission is, it is for the Government to see that some more areas are brought under cultivation, not only in South Travancore but in other parts of Travancore as well. For example, in Neendakara there was salt cultivation in former days. Some places in Central Travancore may also be selected. I would suggest to the Excise Commissioner and Government these facts for their earnest consideration.

I would also suggest to Government that the department of salt be separated from Excise, and placed under a person who has a scientific knowledge of salt manufacture. I think these suggestions will appeal to Government in the interests of the people.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Is it the opinion of the member that salt could be made a thriving industry in Travancore ?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Certainly. We see that during 1103 and 1104, more than half the quantity consumed by our State was home salt. Therefore it cannot be said that people are not purchasing home salt. They are more and more taking to home salt. So, it is for the purpose of bringing these matters for the consideration of Government and also for discussion by this House, that I have tabled this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*) : മി: എൻ. കെ. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള ഇവിടെ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ഹാർദ്ദമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. തെക്കൻ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ മുൻകാലത്തു് ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളതിൽ കൂടുതലായ അളങ്ങളം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഒരു പരമാർത്ഥമാണു്. കുളച്ചൽ കമ്പനിക്കാർ ഇരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലംമുതൽ മണ്ടക്കാട്ടു് ക്ഷേത്രംവരെയുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തിനു പുഴയരുകം എന്നുള്ള പേരുകൊ

[Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai.]

ണ്ടുതന്നെ ഈ സംഗതി വാസ്തവമാണെന്നു ഏറക്കുറെ അറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ സ്ഥലത്തു് ഉപ്പു വിളയുന്നതിനു പകരം തേങ്ങായും ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നെല്ലും ആണ് വിളയുന്നതു്. ഈ സ്ഥലം ഒരു ഫ ൈ ം കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പു നല്ല ഉപ്പുങ്ങളായിരുന്നുവെന്നും, അവിടെ വിളഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന ഉപ്പു കൊട്ടാരംആവശ്യത്തിനുക്രൂടി വാങ്ങിച്ചുവന്നിരുന്നുവെന്നും ഉള്ള സംഗതി കൺട്രാക്ടർമാരിൽ നിന്നും എനിക്കറിവുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ സമീപകാലത്തു് എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും ഈ അളം കൺട്രാക്ടർമാരെ ശരിയായ രീതിയിൽ സഹായിക്കാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ഇങ്ങനെ ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായി കിടന്നുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതും ഇപ്പോഴും ഉപയോഗശൂന്യമായിതന്നെ കിടക്കുന്നതും ആകുന്നു. സാധാരണ റഗുലേഷൻ വ്യാമത്തെ വകുപ്പിൽ മൂന്നു വിഭാഗങ്ങളായി തീരുവയെസംബന്ധിച്ചെടത്തോളം പറഞ്ഞുകാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതായതു് മൊണാപ്പളി, എക്സൈസ്സിസ്റ്റം, ഇതു രണ്ടുംക്രൂടി ചേർന്നതു്, ഇങ്ങനെ മൂന്നു തീരുവയിലാണു് തീരുവ പിരിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): May I ask the member when the licensees of the Colachal Factory expresssd such a desire?

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): They have been telling me for the last three years and just now I got a representation from them.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): May I tell the member that when I consulted them they told me, on that particular question, they would prefer monopoly system to anything else. I believe, they have even petitioned to that effect.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അതു കൂടിക്കുറച്ചു വളരെ അനുകൂലമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. കുളച്ചൽ അളത്തിൽ അങ്ങിനെയില്ലെന്നാണു് കൺട്രാക്ടർമാരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): അധികം അളുകളും എന്നോടുപറഞ്ഞതു് modified എക്സൈസ് ഫാക്ടറി ആക്കണമെന്നാണു്.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): അവരുടെ പ്രതിനിധിയെന്നനിലയിലാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): ഇതിൽ ഏതാണു് ലാഭം; മൊണാപ്പളിസിസ്റ്റം അനുസരിച്ചു വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ലാഭമോ, അതല്ല എക്സൈസ് സിസ്റ്റമനുസരിച്ചു വേലചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ ലാഭമോ?

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MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam cum Vilavankod*): എക്സൈസ് സിസ്റ്റമാണ് ലാഭം.

തീരുവ പിരിവിൽ കൂടുതൽ അളക്കാക്കു് ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളും ഒന്നുമില്ല. അളങ്ങളും നന്നാക്കാനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നുമില്ല. സമീപത്തുള്ള പാമ്പൂരി വായ്ക്കാലിൽ നിന്നു ഉറവ് അളത്തിനകത്തുകൂടി പാഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നതിനു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കികൊടുത്താൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ സമീപത്തുള്ള എ. വി. എം. കെനാൽവഴി വെള്ളം കയറിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകണമെന്നാണു് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ അഭിപ്രായം. സമുദ്രത്തിൽ നിന്നുമുള്ള പാറക്കെട്ടുകളിൽനിന്നും കുഴൽ വെച്ചു വെള്ളം അളങ്ങളിലേക്കു കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്നും അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മീഷണർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അസൌകര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയെല്ലാം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ അറിയിച്ചിട്ടും യാതൊരു സഹായവും ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തുതന്നെ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം ഇറക്കുന്നതിനു പമ്പു ഇല്ലാതിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ശരിയായ ആദായം കിട്ടിയിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഈ അളവ്യവസായികൾക്കു വേണ്ടസൌകര്യങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണം. ഇതിനും പുറമേ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഫോംസാമട്ടു് വിറ്റതിന്നശേഷം മാത്രമേ വിദേശ ഉപ്പുകടം വരുത്താവു എന്ന എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ വിചാരിച്ചുപ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നപക്ഷം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായം നല്ല സ്ഥിതിയിൽ വരികയും അന്യനാട്ടിൽനിന്നും ഉപ്പുവരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യും.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Sir, the quantity of salt required for our consumption in Travancore is only 12 lakhs of maunds. Of that our State produces on an average 6 lakhs and an equal quantity we get from British India.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Does the member know that more than 6 lakhs were produced last year?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I only said on an average. There might be some variations, and I am subject to correction. I have pointed out to this House during the course of the last Budget Session, that it is possible to produce 12 lakhs, provided adequate brine supply is had and adequate remuneration is ensured to the monopoly factories that exist in South Travancore. This has been accepted by the Government. The licensees in the monopoly factory have not got good brine for manufacture, and so they are not able to recover the remuneration—at least the expenses. One question may then be asked: Why are the licensees manufacturing; they can as well leave

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the pans idle. But I have to say that, in case, the pans are left idle, the licenses will be cancelled and the licensees will lose their places. It is just to have these pans for themselves that they are working at a loss annually. I am speaking not from a theoretical point of view, but as one who has personal experience in that matter, as the President of a Co-operative Society organised specially for the improvement of salt manufacture.

Sir, to substantiate the statements given above, I shall give you one instance. In Puthallom at Tamaracolam, in the initial stages they were producing something like 80,000 maunds of salt annually when they had been given the Modified Excise System. On some account or other, as if by vengeance, the modified system was denied to them during the days of Mr. Raman Pillai, now retired Excise Commissioner. As a result of that the out-put of salt came down to something like 30,000 maunds. Under the monopoly system the licensees get only 3¼ annas or even less per maund while the Government get at the rate of 10 annas. On account of the unremunerative character of the industry the manufacturers have neglected it. That is why production is now very low. I say all this simply to show that there is possibility of increasing the out-put considerably if sufficient remuneration is allowed to the owners of the monopoly factories.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the manufacturers have ever approached the authorities for the enhancement of the rate of *kudivila*?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Yes, several times. That has been the cry for the last so many years.

Sir, brine is the basis upon which we have to build up salt manufacture. I have shown to this House during the last Budget Session of this Council that it is possible to get at least five times as much salt from sea brine as we now get from the manipulated Manakudy lake fresh water. This point was accepted by Government without any murmur. Now, let us examine what the Government have done for improving the supply of brine or for giving facilities for increasing the profit of the licensees of the monopoly factories. Sir, if we turn over the pages of the Administration Report of the Department for the last three or four years we would find throughout the statement that the supply of brine is not adequate. That is the opinion of *Government*, and not mine. Having realised this, to sit light upon the matter is very unjust on the part of Government. The reports clearly show that Government are fully aware of the reasons for the unsatisfactory out-turn of salt here. But they have not done anything so far. This indifference on the part of Government in regard to this important question, particularly in a period when the people of the country are suffering from poverty, is highly unpardonable. When there are eminent and highly paid Engineers in the service of Government and when the coffers of the State are full, to say that we cannot make up for the deficiency in the supply of brine is shameful.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the member whether, in his opinion, there is any officer in the Excise Department who knows anything about the manufacture of salt?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovalá*): Yes, there are two officers; but they are not now employed in the Salt Factories Division.

It has given me some consolation, Sir, to understand that there is a scheme for the supply of brine from the sea. But it is now more than two years since the scheme was first thought out. I do not see why the Government are not moving quickly in the matter. I know that they would move very quickly in matters affecting their revenue. For instance, the Neendakara bridge was constructed very expeditiously; and now, soon after the completion of the bridge, we find that a toll gate has been established near the bridge. That brings, of course, heavy revenue to Government. On the other hand in matters which concern the income of the licensees Government sit quiet. That is rather unfair.

Then, with regard to the Modified Excise System which we have been crying for for the last so many years I wish to say a word or two.

PRESIDENT: You are exceeding your time, Mr. Chellam Pillai.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I shall finish soon, Sir. Some years back there was a scheme before Government, and it was travelling for years together from one end of the Huzur Cutcherry to the other. To-day it would be before a certain Secretary and lie over with him for a year or two. Then it would go to the Account Officer and lie with him for two or three years. It would then be sent back to the Excise Commissioner on some pretext or other. In that way it was travelling for years together. After all, in the end when it came out, it ended in a fiasco. The licensees were not willing to accept the terms. That was the fate of that scheme. Now too, there is a scheme before Government, and it has been lying over for the last eight or nine months. I learn that in order to avoid the contingency or the fate of the last scheme, the Excise Commissioner has recommended the constitution of a committee to go into the question. I hope that Government will do the needful as early as possible. As I do not find at present any provision for the adequate supply of brine, nor any suggestion in regard to the introduction of the Modified Excise System, I have to support the motion brought forward by my friend.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the factories at Tamaracolam are the main sources for our supply of salt. These factories, at any rate most of them, were seriously affected by the floods of 1098 and 1101. Some of the licensees quickly attended to the repair work; but not all of them. I will take, for example, Puthallom. It is one of those factories which were affected by the floods. The licensees did not do any repair work at all for a year or two. So, the Department had to take it up. A rubble masonry bund was constructed on two sides of the factory which were most exposed.

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MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the member whether it is the duty of the Government to do Maramat work for Puthallom?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): No, it is not.

The platforms were raised; the canals were repaired. The whole thing cost about Rs. 20,000.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Was it done entirely at Government cost?

PRESIDENT: Please listen to his statement, Mr. Chellam Pillai, before you put your question.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): This amount was contributed both by the licensees and by Government. And the result we see in the increased out-put of the factory.

The Puthallom is on the western side of the lake. There are three more factories on that side and all of them got their repair works done in proper time so that they are all in very good working order.

Coming to the factories on the eastern side, I shall first take up Avatanikal's factory. Years ago the factory was owned by one Venkatasubba Avatanikal. On his death the factory was divided among his sons. Unfortunately, they quarrelled among themselves and ran into heavy debts. I mention this simply to show that, in consequence, the repair works of the factory were entirely neglected. About three-fourths of the factory have already gone into the hands of their creditors and even the other fourth, I hear, is very heavily encumbered. So, in that factory also re-construction work had to be taken up by the Department. The Department did take it up and finished a lot of works in 1104 and 1105. I believe works to the extent of about Rs. 10,000 or more have been done already. The platforms have been raised and the bunds have been reconstructed. Other works are also being attended to. The other factories on the eastern side of the lake are also not working properly.

Sir, there is one important factor to remember in regard to the salt factories at Tamaracolam. So far as the eastern factories are concerned, want of brine is keenly felt. There are brine wells, no doubt, here and there; but the supply does not seem to be plentiful. That seems to be their main difficulty. In former years the Manakudy Lake supplied all the brine required.

MR S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether it is the quantity of brine supplied or the quality that affects the manufacture of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Both; good quality of brine has to be supplied in large quantities.

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As I was submitting, in former years, the lake supplied all the required brine. But, since the advent of the Kodayar Project, it has ceased to do so.

There is one other factory down south, the Variyoor factory, where the supply is plentiful and conditions are quite normal.

There is then the Rajakkamangalam factory where conditions remain much the same. There was a proposal to divert the Alankal, so that the brine in the outer reservoir may not be corrupted by fresh water. I am sorry much progress in that work has not been made during the year, rather much progress *could not be* made.

I shall come to the Colachel *allom*, particularly referred to by my friend Mr. Kesava Pillai. It is true that in that factory also want of adequate supply of brine is keenly felt, and there is difficulty due to fresh water percolation also. Brine had to be taken through the Pampoorivaikal. In former years that canal ran very low and there was no difficulty in taking brine through it. But after the Kodayar Project it runs almost full during the major part of the year, so that there is much difficulty in taking brine through the bed of the *vaikal*. Under orders from Government, the Public Works Department are constructing an aqueduct at a cost of Rs. 3,000 to take brine across the *vaikal*, but over the flood level. It is now under construction, and I believe in the course of a few months, it would be in good order so that hereafter I am sure there would be no difficulty in supplying brine to that *allom*. I hope it would be restored very soon to its former condition.

Sir, salt culture has always been receiving my attention; and the result of it could be seen from the following facts. In 1103, the out-put of salt in our factories was the maximum on record. As my friend himself suggested, it was close on 10 lakhs of maunds of salt while our requirements were somewhere between 11 and 12 lakhs. That was because conditions were exceptionally favourable to the manufacture of salt. The weather was quite dry. It was bad for paddy cultivation but very good for salt culture. I do not at all wish that such weather conditions should always remain so that we may be able to manufacture all the salt that we require. In 1104, Sir, we were able to turn out 7,64,000 maunds of salt. Barring 1103, this is the next best. Never before in the past was that figure reached except, as I said, in 1103. And in 1105, that is in the current year, there have been intermitant rains, almost in all the months of the year. Sir, it is not the quantity of rainfall that affects salt culture so much as the frequency of it. I am told by the Assistant Excise Commissioner that in no month during this year has he been able to scrape more than five times without interruption. Conditions have therefore been rather bad this year. In spite of all that, I am assured that the out-put of salt this year would be at least as much as it was last year, if not more.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the out-put up till now?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall come to that before I close my speech.

Sir, the Economic Development Board took up the question of salt culture and have made a number of suggestions. Those suggestions are now being seriously considered. The result, it is hoped, will be that salt culture will be in full swing in the near future when, probably there would be no complaint from my friends on the other side.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What about the question of giving the Modified Excise System?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There is a proposal to convert the Tamaracolam Old *allom* into a Modified Excise factory. I went down to Tamaracolam on more than two occasions for this purpose. I had to answer a query or two from Government in that connection. I sent invitations to the licensees; I sent my office establishment after them; but I could not meet them. I went there twice to discuss the question with them and get their views on the matter. But the licensees are so careless, so indifferent to salt culture, so much so I was not able to do anything at all. So, I sent up *my* recommendation without hearing what they had to say.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Am I to understand that the Excise Commissioner has no control over these salt licensees?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We have no control to compel their presence when we want it. I can only ask them to come and see me, invite them; I cannot issue a warrant.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is then the control that he has in the matter?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I have control over salt culture.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What are the proposals that the Excise Commissioner had in view to improve salt culture?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I had some proposals in mind and I wanted to discuss them with the licensees, but they would not come.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will he be pleased to have these proposals printed and circulated among the licensees instead of going and seeing them in person?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): People would not care to come and see me at one or two miles distance from their residence. Are they going to care for the printed proposals? Will they read them and do the needful?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I shall see that they read it.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I see no objection to the proposals being printed and circulated.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): It has been stated in the Report of the Department as follows;

"The owners of the pans do not evince any interest in bringing the factories into good working condition."

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Has the Excise Commissioner investigated why they have not evinced any interest in the matter?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): They do not pay much attention to salt culture. They leave it to their coolies who do it carelessly.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Why?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not know.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Is it because they do not get proper remuneration for their work?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not think it is due to that. The remuneration has been the same all these years.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Then, why is it? If the remuneration has been the same all these years the production also has been in the same low level all along. Therefore, it cannot be stated that that is not the reason for the alleged indifference or carelessness on the part of the licensees. Anyhow, the Excise Commissioner ought to go into the matter and find out the reason for this sort of carelessness on the part of the licensees.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Does the member want me to go into their psychology?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Not the psychology, but some tangible reason for this sort of carelessness on the part of the licensees.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall try. To my mind, it seems they are careless.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know whether he is aware that a co-operative society has been organised by the salt manufacturers and that it is working properly?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes; it is working fairly well.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Then, how can he say that the salt manufacturers are careless?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): But, not all the manufacturers have joined the society.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): About one-fifth of them are members of the society.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That is all.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner whether, as at present, the manufacturers are able to make any margin of profit for themselves for their work?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Even at present they do have a margin of profit.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the margin of profit that they get now?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The cost of manufacture of a maund of salt is only about 3 chuckrams.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): I differ from him.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Can I have his indulgence to differ from him, Sir?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What is the *kudivila* that the manufacturer gets?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): 12½ chakrams per maund.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): No; he gets only about 5 chs. per maund.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): As it is a monopoly factory, three maunds, out of every five produced, belong to Government, and the remaining two maunds go to the licensee. For these two maunds, he is paid at the rate of 12½ chackrams per maund.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): For the other three maunds which also he manufactures, does he get anything, at least his cost of manufacture?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is Government salt; why should the manufacturer be paid anything, for the Government's share of three maunds?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Should they not be paid at least the cost of manufacture?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Even according to the member's calculation the manufacturer gets about 5 chs. per maund; and his cost price per maund is only 3 chs. He has therefore a margin of 2 chs. per maund.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The cost of labour alone comes to 3 chs. per maund. There are other expenses also (redumping etc.) which cost the manufacturer—you may take it from me—not less than 2 chs. per maund. I can prove it to the Excise Commissioner. I speak from my own personal experience in the matter. So, the manufacturer is hardly able to make any profit for himself.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall gladly take detailed information on the matter from the member.

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): What about *kudivila*?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): We were talking about *kudivila* all along.

PRESIDENT: What is it that you want to know about *kudivila*, Mr. Chellam Pillai?

MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): The Rules provide that the manufacturer has got a right for two-fifths of the price.

PRESIDENT: Why should we go into all that? If the Rules say that, you would certainly get it.

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MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): But we do not get it; that is our difficulty. The sale price of a maund of salt is 10 as. Two-fifths of this come to 4 as. a maund; but we get only about 3 as. a maund. I am not able to see on what basis the Government now give at the rate of 5 chs. per maund to the manufacturer.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It was originally somewhere about 3 chs. It has subsequently been raised to 5 chs. It is based on the actual cost of manufacture.

PRESIDENT: We are, it seems to me, Mr. Chellam Pillai, going too much into details. You may represent your personal case on the matter to the Excise Commissioner outside the House.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the Excise Commissioner traced the cause of the indifference of the licensees to which the Commissioner has been referring? He has been saying that they did not even respond to his invitation. Has he taken the trouble to ascertain the cause of such indifference? Is it because they do not get adequate return, as Mr. Chellam Pillai seems to suggest?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Some of the licensees live in British India, far away from Tamaracolam, and are not in touch with the actual working of the factories. They entrust the factories to some *kanganies* or agents, who take the real profit.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What about the owners of factories who live here?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): They have only a few pans.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So, am I to understand from the Excise Commissioner that, since the chief among the salt manufacturers do not live in or near the factories, there is no near prospect of improving the industry in Travancore?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): No; as I said, there is an idea of converting all of them into Modified Factories.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Is there any proposal from the Excise Commissioner to have better departmental control over the industry?

MR P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I have been issuing orders to suspend them, to fine them, and to punish them otherwise, although I knew it would be hard on them.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Can suspensions and fines improve the industry?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It *will* improve; because, we could eventually take up the manufacture ourselves and do it on better lines.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ഉപ്പള

ത്തിനകത്തു തെങ്ങുകൃഷി നടത്തിയാൽ തടസ്സം ഉണ്ടോ?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നും പറയാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether there is any possibility of having more factories anywhere in Travancore except in the South?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I was just looking for it when Mr. T. C. Kesava Pillai touched that question. I have not heard of any prospect of opening more factories anywhere else except in the South; and, so far as South Travancore is concerned, in the years past it appears there were factories between Cape Comorin and Colachel. It was a surprise to me to hear from Mr. Kesava Pillai that there was another factory *near* Colachel besides the one *at* Colachel. It is not possible anywhere else except Colachel, in that part of the country, to manufacture salt. Anyhow, I shall investigate the question. At any rate, I may tell the House that there has been no application from anybody for permission to manufacture salt anywhere near Colachel.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Is there any possibility anywhere else in Travancore, in Kayankulam, for instance?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In Central Travancore, more than 100 or 150 years ago, salt appears to have been manufactured on the sides of the backwater; but the salt manufactured there was very poor in quality and not marketable.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): So, if proper attention is not paid to the salt manufacture at Tamaracolam, is not the Excise Commissioner afraid that these factories also would follow the footsteps of the Kayankulam factories?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I believe the industry is being properly attended and the salt manufactured there is good in quality, as good as Tinnevelly salt.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): If properly done, does not the Excise Commissioner think that with all our present factories working properly, all the salt required for our consumption could be produced here itself?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That in my humble opinion, we could hope to produce even more than that.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How long may we have to wait for attaining that stage?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not possible to answer that question. It depends on several circumstances. I believe it is quite possible to manufacture in our factories all the salt that is required for our consumption.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): When did he receive the report of the Economic Development Board?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): About three or four months ago.

PRESIDENT: The House will now rise and meet again at half-past-two.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-2 P. M. and met again at 2-30 P. M.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Various difficulties experienced by the salt licensees were mentioned by Messrs. Chellam Pillai and N. K. Krishna Pillai. From the explanation offered by the learned Excise Commissioner, I am sorry to find that his attitude, if I may be permitted to say so, is very indifferent. In the course of his speech, he said that he went to Tamaracolam and invited some of the licensees to speak with him on the conditions under which they manufactured salt. The Excise Commissioner further said that the licensees did not care to respond to his invitation and that they did not go to him.

Sir, the licensees are practically in the thumbs of the Excise Department; they are bound by the various conditions in the agreements which they have entered into with the Department and the Excise Commissioner can put pressure, if he wants, upon the licensees and compel them to see him. This is the first time, Sir, that I hear an Excise Commissioner deploring that the salt licensees were indifferent to his orders, and that they did not go to see him when he called for them. In the case of the previous Excise Commissioners, the licensees were flocking at their doors and were not able oftentimes to see them. That apart, Sir, if the Excise Commissioner really wanted to improve the condition of the manufacture of salt, he could have done so.

Again, Sir, I expected that the Excise Commissioner during the course of his reply would say something about the quality of the salt manufactured here. This question of the quality of the salt was raised year before the last by one member and I said from the facts before me and the Government records that the quality of salt produced in this country was inferior to that of Bombay salt. But the Excise Commissioner replied that it was not so. Somehow I was not able to be here during the discussion of the Excise debate last year; but I find that the Excise Commissioner in the course of the discussion admitted that the quality of home salt was inferior to Bombay salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not remember having said that every quality of the salt was inferior. What I said was that some kinds of salt produced in this country were inferior and some others not.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I take the word of the Excise Commissioner.

Further, from the note of Dr. Kunjan Pillai submitted to the Economic Development Board, it is seen that the Madras Salt Commission in their Report found that the home salt was inferior. The note of Dr. Kunjan Pillai contained other statements also to show that the quality of the salt produced here was inferior. This is borne out by

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[Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.]

the fact that we import foreign salt year after year in increased quantities. In 1104 the total quantity of Tinnevelly salt consumed in the State was 2,97,701 maunds and it was 2,63,000 maunds in the previous year. The Administration Report of the Department from the year 1041 onwards also would show that the quality of local salt is inferior to that of Bombay salt. All that I wish to bring to the notice of the Excise Commissioner is that if nothing is done towards improving the condition of salt manufacture in Tamaracolam, the Tamaracolam licensees may share the fate of the Kayankulam licensees. It is our earnest wish that we should be self-supporting in our salt manufacture.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I must say, Sir, that the speech of the Excise Commissioner was not altogether convincing. Yet, in view of the optimism which he expresses about better results he expects to achieve in our salt manufacture, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House allow the motion to be withdrawn? The motion was, by leave withdrawn.

Motion 87.

PRESIDENT: Motion No. 87* standing in the name of Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai is out of order because it contravenes the provisions of Section 11 of the Regulation.

[*87 MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 20,009 for Salt Factories by Rs. 10.

(To suggest the abolition of salt monopoly and the necessity of selling salt at the actual cost price.)]

Motion 88.

The following motion was not moved,

MR. A. C. KURIAKOSE:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,240 for Inspectors by Rs. 100.

Motion 89.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,21,000 for transport charges of salt by Rs. 21,000.

My object in making the motion is to draw the attention of the Government and the learned Excise Commissioner to the fact that although we are allowing such a huge allotment as Rs. 1,21,000 for the transport of salt, salt is not made available for merchants in certain depots. I wish to take a concrete instance. A certain merchant, a constituent of mine, applied for salt from the Trivandrum Port Salt Depot, but was not given salt. I wish to know from the Excise Commissioner why after such a huge allotment is made for the transport of salt, salt is not made available to that merchant at Trivandrum.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the merchants of Trivandrum usually get their supplies of salt from the factories at Tamaracolam. We have on an average more than 5 to 6 lakhs of maunds of salt manufactured at Tamaracolam every year. But the *melvaram* comes to about 3 lakhs of maunds and the remaining quantity is available for sale to the merchants. For this reason the supply of salt at the Trivandrum Port Salt Depot which is stocked with Tamaracolam salt, is limited.

Further we have got only five sheds at Trivandrum, having a maximum capacity of 50,000 maunds. We have also to supply salt to Jail, the Devaswom Department and other Government institutions. In spite of these circumstances, we had been supplying salt to the merchant referred to by my friend Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai. But on one or two occasions we found that the merchant was buying salt with a view to send it to Central Travancore.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether there is any objection to the merchant transporting salt from here to Central Travancore?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, I will mention what the objections are. There are two depots in Central Travancore, one at Quilon and the other at Alleppey. There is plenty of salt available in these two depots. For some reason which I was not able to divine at the time, the merchant was buying large quantities of salt from the Trivandrum depot and sending it to Central Travancore. On account of that we had to refuse his demands.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know from the learned Excise Commissioner, whether he cared to ascertain why this merchant sends such large quantities of salt from here to Central Travancore when salt is available there?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): To make an unholy profit.

PRESIDENT: How did he get such large quantities of salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That merchant generally gets salt in carts from the Tamaracolam factories. There is an impression that this salt is much better than the salt transported and stored in our depot here. My own information is that the merchant wanted to buy salt from the local depot with a view to palm it off as salt purchased from the factories, at a higher price. In these circumstances, he had to be refused only once. Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai was good enough to bring it to my notice and I readily answered him.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, I am not quite satisfied with the explanation offered by the Excise Commissioner. We provide a large amount in the Budget for the transport of salt. From the Administration Report for the year 1104 we find: "The large accumulation of salt in the Modified Excise factories due to favourable manufacturing seasons which could not find

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[Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai.]

ready sales at the factories themselves necessitated Government to interfere in the matter."

The Excise Commissioner has told us that the merchant I referred to, buys salt from here and sends it to Central Travancore for sale there and thus makes profit. I ask, is there any serious objection in his sending salt to Central Travancore? He buys at the price fixed by the Government and sends it to a place where he can make profit. Why should he send it to Central Travancore, if there were good salt in the salt factories there? The reasons the Commissioner mentioned were not understood by me. The inference that I draw is that the salt stored there is of an inferior quality. Whatever that may be, Sir, as soon as I knew that the merchant was refused salt, I gave notice of the fact to the Excise Commissioner. It would have been fair, had he read out my letter. However I shall read out his reply. His reply was :

"My dear Sir, Your letter dated the 23rd July. The merchants of Trivandrum usually get their supply of salt from the factories at Tamaracolam including the merchant referred to....."

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : I rise to a point of order. I wish to know whether a matter which has not been made available to the House may be referred to by the member?

PRESIDENT : He is reading the letter. He is placing it before the House.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) :

"Your letter dated the 23rd July. The merchants of Trivandrum usually get their supply of salt from the factories at Tamaracolam including the merchant referred to in your letter. But of late he has begun to buy large quantities of salt not for local sale but for sale at Central Travancore and other places and has made heavy demands on the Port Salt Depot. As the stock there is limited, his extravagant demands could not be met. The Inspector has however instructions to meet all legitimate demands."

I cannot understand what the extravagant and illegitimate demand is in this case. If there were not sheds enough here to store the salt required for the town, then the Excise Commissioner could as well have asked for a provision for the erection of more sheds in the Trivandrum port. I therefore request the Excise Commissioner to provide for future contingencies.

One other objection that the Excise Commissioner raised was that he was required to supply salt to Government institutions. I do not understand what he meant by 'other Government institutions'. I think it is the fish curing yard that he had in mind. In the case of the fish curing yards, we know, Sir, that the Government lose a portion of their revenue which they would otherwise have got by selling it to ordinary persons for human consumption. I am afraid that the plea put forward by the Excise Commissioner is not tenable. I therefore request the Excise Commissioner to make proper arrangements and see that sufficient salt is stored for the purpose of sale.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The sheds are proposed to be stored with salt to their maximum capacity I have already made arrangements to that effect.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): In view of the explanation offered by the learned Excise Commissioner, I withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT: Does the House allow the motion to be withdrawn?

The motion was, by leave withdrawn.

Motion 90.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): I wish to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,21,000 for transport charges of salt by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is just to bring to the attention of the Government the hardships experienced by a section of the people of Travancore say Piravom in north Travancore. Piravom is an important commercial centre in Muvattupuzha. The merchants of Piravom have now to bring salt from Munambam. They bring salt from Munambam to Parur; from there they take it to Alwaye, then to Perumbavoor and to Kuthattukulam and lastly they take it to Piravam.

PRESIDENT: For how many miles have they to transport salt so that they may take it from Munambam to Piravam?

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): I think it would come to 60 miles in all by land route. They have to bring the salt in ordinary carts, buses and so on.

Now, Sir, the expenditure in transporting salt through this circutious route is so much that it affects not only the merchant but also the consumer. I shall give an idea of the extent of the loss suffered by the merchant. The merchant has to spend as transport charges 12 to 14 as. per sack. If salt is brought by the backwaters, then the charge will be roughly 3 as. per sack and it may sometimes come to only 2 as. This is what the merchants told me.

PRESIDENT: Then why do not the merchants transport salt by water?

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): The Excise Commissioner does not allow them to transport the salt by the water-route. The matter has been represented to him several times. On one occasion, when he came to Vaikam, I went to him with several merchants and placed the whole matter before him. The Commissioner told me that there would be smuggling if the salt is allowed to be transported by water that the salt would be transported to Vadayar and other places which get salt supplies from Alleppey. We allow a large staff for the preventive stations. Then why speak of smuggling?

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): അലപ്പുഴ ഡിപ്പോവിൽനിന്നും കൊണ്ടുവരുന്ന ഉപ്പും ഈ ഉപ്പുംകൂടി ചേത്താൽ അതു് സ്മഗ്ളിങ്ങ് ആകുമോ?

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MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Not that. What he meant was that when they get down salt from Alleppey they get only a small percentage of foreign salt and therefore they go in for Munambam salt and hence there will be no demand for Alleppey salt.

The Commissioner says that if salt is allowed to be transported from Munambam by water, then there is a tendency to smuggle it to Vadayar and other places. He says that he could not prevent smuggling and therefore penalise the poor merchants of Piravom. It is a matter which has been represented to him several times. Unless the rules of procedure are changed, I am sure it will result in great loss to the poor merchants and the consumers. With these words, I move the motion.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): The object of Government is to popularise home salt among Central Travancoreans. At Alleppey there is a large stock of home salt and the stock of Bombay salt there is much less than the stock of home salt.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): If that be so, why should the merchant of Trivandrum be prevented from sending salt from Trivandrum to Central Travancore?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry I am not on that motion now.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Will the Excise Commissioner be pleased to answer that question?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall.

At Alleppey, Bombay salt and local salt are sold in the proportion 1:4 *i.e.* the proportion of the stocks that we have there. At Munambam the situation is otherwise. We have there a large quantity of Bombay salt; and only this year did we transport about 25,000 maunds of home salt there. The object of keeping such a large quantity of Bombay salt at Munambam is this. Munambam is surrounded by Cochin territory where Bombay salt alone is sold. It is on account of that reason that we are not sending more of home salt to Munambam. The accommodation too is limited there, and we have therefore to restrict issue somehow or other. In these circumstances my predecessor passed orders to the effect that the issue should be restricted.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Has the member any idea as to the number of sacks which the Piravom people get down in the course of one year and the loss it works up to?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I am just coming to the loss.

So, Sir, the issue had to be restricted and so it was. My friend brought to my notice the difficulties and inconvenience felt by the merchants of Piravom. As he said, they have to go a long way to Munambam for their supplies of salt. But I asked them why they did not prefer to go to Alleppey which is much nearer and get their supplies from the depot there? It is even now open to them to do so and there is no objection to it.

PRESIDENT: What is the distance from Alleppey to Piravom?

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : From Alleppey to Vaikam it will be 24 miles and from Vaikam to Piravam it will be another 13 miles. I mention the distance by the water route.

It will only cost them less and they are at liberty to get salt from Alleppey. But I have not been able to find out what objection they had to getting salt from Alleppey. They said they would bring salt to Ernaculam and get it transported to Piravom by cart or lorry. I said I had no objection. They replied they would be satisfied with the arrangement and ever since there was no complaint from them. My friend's representation was made long before they had made this convenient arrangement.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : Last time when the Commissioner came to Vaikam I represented the matter to him.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I thought it was some time ago. The member might have referred to the subject when I was there.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : I went to him with the merchants of Piravom, who came there. I remember the occasion quite well.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : Even now they can take salt by the route mentioned by me.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : They have to pay more. What is the harm in taking it as far as Piravom by *vallom*?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : The objection is this. There is a tendency to smuggle. That would create difficulties for the Department. The supply of Bombay salt will soon be exhausted and we will not be able to replenish the supply before the next season comes.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : Does the Excise Commissioner think it just to make them pay more because he suspect there is a tendency to smuggle?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I only expect a tendency to smuggle. After all, the difference in the cost to the merchants will not be much.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : I am told there is a difference of 12 as.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : I understand the difference will not be very great.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*) : Would the Commissioner assure me that he will see that the merchants are allowed to bring salt as far as Piravom in *Vallom*?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*) : They are even now allowed.

PRESIDENT : You are at cross purposes. Mr. Murikkan is asking you whether there is any objection to the merchants of Piravom bringing salt from Munambam by boat as far as Piravom.

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MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I said there was objection and explained the objection also.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): The Commissioner said there was a tendency to smuggle.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): There were even complaints that there was smuggling going on. My only fear is that the stock of Bombay salt will be exhausted before it can be replenished and then everybody will be in difficulties. After all we keep salt for consumption and for no other purpose. We sent this year 1,75,000 maunds of Bombay salt and 25 thousands of home salt to Munambam and next year the quantity of home salt is still further going to be raised.

MR. P. S. MAHOMED (*Nominated*): ഇങ്ങിനെ കൂടുതലാക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെയും റസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ വയ്ക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): ഈ റസ്ട്രിക്ഷൻ വച്ചാൽ ഇലപ്പുഴുക്കു പോകേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുവച്ചു അവർ തന്നെത്താനെ വേണ്ടെന്നു വയ്ക്കും.

PRESIDENT: It looks as though it were a protective measure in favour of home salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, Sir.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Then there is no necessity for importing foreign salt.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): But we do not produce enough home salt to meet our requirements. The stock is limited at Munambam; therefore the supply also must be limited to meet the requirements until the next transport season. The transport season commences in Dhanu and ends in Medom.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): How are you going to supply Bombay salt alone to any particular locality?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAAKM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Munambam is surrounded by Cochin, where they have Bombay salt.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Why not take steps to make our salt popular in Cochin?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): I shall be glad if that can be done.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): How can you make it popular unless you take it there?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): That is what is being done.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): How does the neighbourhood of Cochin affect this question?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): In Cochin Bombay salt alone is available. Also there is an impression among the people there that Bombay salt is better than our salt.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is the answer I wanted.

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): People at Munambam prefer Bombay salt because they consider it to be superior.

PRESIDENT: Because they rightly or wrongly consider Bombay salt to be superior.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): May I know whether you charge a higher rate for Bombay Salt?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes. It is their impression that Bombay salt is superior; it may not actually be the case.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): ബാംബേ സാൾട്ടിൽനിന്നും ഗവണ്മെൻറിലേക്കു കമ്മീഷൻ വല്ലതും കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കമ്മിഷനൊന്നുമില്ല.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Vilavankod*): കമ്മീഷനായിട്ടു വല്ലതും കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. GOMATINAYAKAM PILLAI (*Excise Commissioner*): കമ്മീഷനും മറ്റും കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. കൊടുക്കേണ്ടവിലമാത്രം കൊടുത്തുമേടിക്കുന്നു.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): It was suggested that it was partly as a preventive measure that merchants are prohibited from bringing salt by water. I can quite understand that as a preventive measure they are not allowed to bring salt by water. But I wish to submit, Sir, they have to pay more for purchasing Bombay salt. If they are going to be taxed further for purchasing Bombay salt, I do not find there is any justification for it, especially when the Government make Bombay salt available. If the loss incurred by the people is only trifling this question would not have been brought before the Council. But, Sir, the merchants incur a loss of 12 annas per sack.

PRESIDENT: Not if they transport the salt by the Ernaculam route.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): No. Of course, that was not suggested to me by the Excise Commissioner and I, have not bestowed thought on it. Any how I leave the matter entirely to the good sense of the Commissioner and the Government. I am sure that the Excise Commissioner will go into the question and see that the interests of the people are considered. On this understanding, for the present, I withdraw the motion.

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PRESIDENT: Does the House allow the motion to be withdrawn?

The motion was, by leave withdrawn.

Motions 91 and 92.

The following motions were not moved:

91. MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,08,015 for Salt by Rs. 10.

92. MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI:

To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,08,015 for Salt by Rs. 100.

Motions 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 104 and 113.

PRESIDENT: I find that motions 93, 94, 95, 98, 99, 104 and 113 are identical in object. They are all intended to discuss the Excise policy and to get a declaration of the Excise policy from the Government; when motion No. 93 is discussed, others who have tabled the other motions on the same subject may also speak on the subject so that it may not be necessary to take those motions separately.

Motion 93.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakard* cum *Kunnattur*): I beg to make the following motion:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,687 for establishment by Re. 1.

Sir, at the very outset I wish to say that Government have declared prohibition to be their goal. At the 18th Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly in reply to a representation on the subject, the then Dewan Mr. Raghaviah said that

"Government is at one with you that drink should be gradually abolished and the revenue on Excise should eventually disappear."

It is clearly mentioned there that the Government are at one with the people in their aim to see that the revenue derived by them from Excise completely disappears. But from the course of action now pursued by Government, any one could understand that they are not sincere in their outlook and in their attitude towards working out the Excise policy. It is evident from the fact that as years elapse there is a gradual rise in the Excise Revenue as well as a rise in the consumption of toddy, arrack and other intoxicating liquors.

At the time when the Excise Regulation was introduced in the Legislative Council the late Mr. Thanu Pillai said that the object of the Government is not to collect revenue alone but to see that the moral tone of the people of Travancore, so far as drink is concerned, is elevated. He said:

"The object of the department, it should be borne in mind, is no less moral than fiscal. Indeed, it is more in the interests of public morality than of public revenue.

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The policy of Government is to be deduced and to be understood from these declarations made by themselves or their representatives. If we refer to the revenue of the department in 1102, 1103 and 1104 we would find there is a regular increase. In 1102 it was Rs. 31,97,978 in 1103, Rs. 33,00,059 and in 1104 Rs. 39,69,946. With this increase in the revenue there must also be a corresponding increase in the consumption of liquor. Seeing that the department by itself is not working towards prohibition, last year, a resolution was moved in this Council by Mr. Pachu Pillai to the effect that the number of trees licensed for tapping must be reduced, so that the consumption of toddy from year to year may go down. That resolution was passed by a large majority in this House. At that time the present Excise Commissioner raised the objection that the number of trees allowed to be tapped each year cannot be reduced since the yield from each tree varies according to the change of season. But from the actual accounts, we find that the quantity of toddy consumed every year is on the increase. Therefore the law of supply and demand and other pleas put forward by the Excise Commissioner is not working practically.

Then Sir, Mr. Matthew Murikkan moved another resolution in this Council with a view to point out the defects in the location of liquorr shops near markets, temples, schools etc. The Excise Commissioner as usual was very vague in his reply which was anything but satisfactory. It would appear from his speech that the interests of the people of Travancore and of the Government who rule them are not the same.

Prohibition is desired by the people of Travancore for their welfare and for their own interests. When such broad policies are discussed, it would be magnanimous on the part of the Government to openly admit that if they are worked out it would be beneficial to the people. Instead, they try as far as possible to corner the non-official members of this House who bring forward such resolution and nullify the effect of their arguments. On such occasions it is that we are forced to put the resolutions to vote. That sort of procedure itself shows that the Government have got a separate interest from that of the people. In pursuance of the policy of prohibition declared by the Government themselves, and advocated both in the press and the platform, I wanted to bring a resolution in this Council last time to the effect that propaganda work should be carried on for the purpose of working out prohibition. I wanted to show by that resolution that if attempts were made, and if the Public Health and Co-operative Departments were allowed to do propaganda work as in Madras and other places, then we would have been able to realise prohibition. But Government did not allow that. If we refer to the activities of the Madras Government, we would find that in the year 1928 they sanctioned 4 lakhs of rupees for carrying on propaganda work and in 1929 they sanctioned 5 lakhs of rupees for the same purpose. In Rasipuram and Trichengode in Salem they introduced prohibition. They also promised to introduce rationing in 3 taluks in Vizagapatam. This would show that the Government of Madras are

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[Mr. R. Kesava Pillai]

very sincere in carrying on propaganda work against drink. Even in these troublous times in British India, when the Viceroy issued new Ordinances, he did not prohibit the lawful carrying on of propaganda work against drink. But recently, Sir, a policy has been pursued by the Government of Travancore by which they try to quell down peaceful propaganda carried on against drink in the State. The instances which took place in Quilon, Kuthiathodu and other places bear sufficient testimony to this. To check down these activities of the people, special orders were issued for importing *lathis*.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Can the member tell me when that order was issued?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): My information is that *lathis* have been imported from British India and then they were secured in Travancore.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): The member said that in connection with the repression of propaganda work, special orders were issued for the import of *lathis*. Can he give me the dates of those orders?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I do not know whether orders were issued or not. But I know as a matter of fact that there are *lathis* in the Police Department.

MR. L. A. BISHOP (*Commissioner of Police*): Will the member specifically say the date of the order for the import of the *lathis*?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I am not sure whether any order was issued. I only make a general statement. There are people who have witnessed the constabulary here being drilled in the use of *lathis*.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Which is more effective, *lathis* or batons?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I hear *lathis* are more effective.

This is how the Government are going to help prohibition in Travancore.

[Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai addressed a question which was not heard.]

PRESIDENT: When you ask a question do not turn that side, Mr. Krishna Pillai, because nobody can hear you.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Does not the member know that there was a special training in *lathis* given to the Constables in the Police Commissioner's Office very recently?

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): That is what I said a few minutes ago. I said that the constabulary was being drilled in the use of *lathis*.

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When the people themselves are trying to drive out the demon of drink from the State, it is a very sorry spectacle to find that the Government which should try to help these activities, put pressure on the people and try to see that the revenue which they get yearly is not decreased. I need not speak much about the advantages which prohibition would bring to the State. An eminent gentleman has said as follows :

"The State does not cater for the vices of the people. We do not regulate or license houses of ill-fame ; we do not provide facilities for thieves to indulge in their propensity. I hold drink to be more damnable than thieving and perhaps even prostitution."

I will not dilate much upon the advantages which a policy of prohibition would bring to the State. I will only quote another passage regarding the effect of prohibition in America. The passage is as follows :—

"Greater harmony in the home, fewer strikes and less discord generally between employees and employed, more money in savings account and building and loan associations, not only more of the necessities of life in the average homes, but vastly more of the luxuries greatly increased, church memberships and more church buildings constructed, larger school attendance in our public schools, colleges and universities."

These, Sir, are the advantages which prohibition has brought to those countries. I appeal to our Government also to adopt prohibition as their goal and to bring it into practical shape by a course of action which they would follow hereafter. One difficulty, one apparent difficulty, which may be said to stand in the way of Government adopting prohibition as their ultimate goal is that their revenue would suffer. If we refer to a *Sadhanam* issued in 1095 by our Government, we would find that our Government were very generous in foregoing their revenues They have foregone seven lakhs of rupees in one year. In Vol. V page 680 of the Land Revenue Manual we find the following *Sadhanam*.

PRESIDENT : You may mention the subject. You have exceeded the time allowed to you. You have taken 13 minutes.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : Sir, please allow me to read the *Sadhanam*.

PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. R. KESAVA PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*) : സാധനം ഇതാകുന്നു. "ഫ-ാമതു് അയ്യത്തിത്തക്കം ഉൾപ്പെടെ ഫ0 @ 0-ാമാണ്ടുവരെ കരക്കുടിശ്ശിക യിൽ ന@,ന്വ,ന്വനന് മുകാൽ അരമാകാണി പണവും ഓരോ അടിയന്തിരങ്ങൾക്കു നോപ്പുകാർക്കും മറും കയ്യാളിച്ചു വകയിൽ ഫ0 ന@-ാമാണ്ടുവരെ ചിലവുമിച്ചത്തിൽ വ ഫ ഫ ന്വ0-

[Mr. R. Kesava Pillai.]

മുക്കാലെമുണ്ടാണിക്കാമാകാണി പണവും ആയാണ്ടുവരെ കത്തയീടകടി ട്ടിഖയിൽ ഫനുവ്വൻൻ ഫകാലെമാകാണി പണവും കരക്കടിട്ടിഖമുത ലായതു കണക്കു വായിച്ചു കേട്ടു പിരിവുവെച്ചു ഇരിപ്പെഴുതി. വരുന്ന വകയിൽ ഫ,ന്നു, ൈൻവ്വ കാലെഅരയ്ക്കാൽ മുക്കാമാകാണി പണവും സക്കാർ ജീവനക്കാരിടെ പേരിൽ ഫ ൦ ൨ ൨-ാമാണ്ടുവരെ ചുമതലവക യിൽ ന,ന്നു ൈ, ൈ ഫ ൫ മുക്കാൽ പണവും ഇങ്ങനെ അഞ്ചു ഇനത്തിലാ യിട്ടു ർൻ,വ്വ,൦ ൦ ൨ മുണ്ടാണിഅരമാകാണി പണം ഉള്ളതിൽ ഈ വിളംബരംഅതാതുസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ എത്തുന്ന തീയതിവരെ പിരിഞ്ഞ തു നീക്കി പിരിവാനുള്ള പണവും ഒറ്റിവിളക്കം പാട്ടംകെട്ടു മുതലായ ഇനങ്ങളിലുംപുതുവൽ വസ്തുക്കം പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിലും ഫ ൦ ൫ ൦-ാ മാണ്ടു വരെകുടിട്ടിഖ മുതൽ പൊപ്പാൻ വരുന്ന പണവും ഫ ൦ ൨ ൨-ാ മാണ്ടു വരെ കൈമാറി മുതൽ ചിലവു പതിയുന്നതിൽ ചിലവിൽ ത ള്ളുതൽ വരുന്ന പണവും കുടികളിടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനും കണക്കുകം പരി ഷ്കാരമായിരിക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടി മാപ്പു ചെയ്ത ആ വക പണം കണ ക്കിൽ കുറവെഴുതിക്കുന്നതിനു് ചട്ടം കെട്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു."

This shows the generosity of our Government in those days. Therefore I would request Government to adopt such a policy in this case also.

MR. MURUVELIL PACHU PILLAI (*Shertallai*): സർ, മിസ്റ്റർ കേശവപിള്ളയുടെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ എക്സൈസ് നയം, കാലക്രമേണ, മദ്യപാനത്തെ ഇല്ലായ്മ ചെയ്യണം എന്നുള്ളതാണു് എന്നു പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇറന്നു പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. രാജ്യഭരണപ്പോട്ടിൽതന്നെ നോക്കിയാൽ അതിനു ധാരാളം തെളിവുകളും ഉണ്ടു. ഇതിനുപുറമേ ഈ ഡിപ്പാട്ട് മെൻറിലെ മേലധ്യക്ഷനായ എക്സൈസ്കമ്മീഷണരും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഇതിൽനിന്നുംകിട്ടുന്ന ആദായം വലിയകാര്യമായി ഗണിക്കുന്നില്ല; നിശ്ചയമായും ഇതിനെ ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യണം എന്നുള്ളതാണു് ഡിപ്പാട്ട്മെൻറിൻേറയും ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻേറയും ഉദ്ദേശം, എന്നു് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ രാമൻപിള്ള മെമ്മോറിയൽ മെഡൽസമ്മാനം കോട്ടയത്തുവച്ചു നടത്തിയപ്പോൾ ഈ അഭിപ്രായം കമ്മീഷണരുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഉദ്ദേശം സാധിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു് ഇപ്പോൾ എന്തുചെയ്യുന്നു എ

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ന്നനോക്കാം. മദ്യവ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ മേൽനോട്ടം ശരിയായി വഹിക്കുകയും വ്യാജം നടക്കാതെ ചുങ്കം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ആണ്ടുതോറും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ലേലത്തിൽ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം ഒരു പെർസന്റേജുവച്ച് കുറക്കുകയും ആണ് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ഇപ്പോൾ അനുഷ്ഠിച്ചുവരുന്ന നടപടികൾ. ഈമാതിരിയുള്ള നടപടികൾകൊണ്ട് ഈ ഉദ്ദേശം സാധിക്കുന്നതിന് എളുപ്പമില്ലെന്നാണ് ഇതുവരെയുള്ള അനുഭവംകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നത്. മദ്യത്തിന് ചുങ്കംകൂട്ടി എന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് മദ്യപാനികളായിട്ടുള്ളവർക്ക് അതിനെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കാൻ ഒരിക്കലും മനസ്സുവരികയില്ല. ഉപ്പു നികുതി കൂട്ടിവച്ചു എന്നു വിചാരിച്ച് ഉപ്പുകൂടാതെ ജീവിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. അതിന് എന്തു വിലയായിരുന്നാലും ആ വിലകൊടുത്തു വാങ്ങിച്ചു ഉപയോഗിക്കതന്നെ ചെയ്യും. അതുപോലെ മദ്യം ഉപേക്ഷിക്കാൻനിവൃത്തി ഇല്ലാത്തവർ അതിനു ചുങ്കംകൂട്ടി എന്നിരുന്നാൽതന്നെയും എന്തു വിലകൊടുത്തും വാങ്ങിച്ചു ഉപയോഗിക്കയല്ലാതെ അതിനെഉപേക്ഷിക്കയില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ പ്രധാനമായി ചെയ്യുന്നതു ലേലക്കാലത്തു് ഒരു പെർസെന്റേജ് അനുസരിച്ചു കള്ളുഷാപ്പുകളുടെഎണ്ണം ആണ്ടുതോറും കുറക്കുക എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അതിലേക്ക് ൧൯൦൨-ൽ ൧൨൭൯ ഷാപ്പുകൾ ലേലംചെയ്തതിൽനിന്നു് ൧൯൦൪-ൽ ലേലംചെയ്ത ഷാപ്പുകൾ ൧൨൦൨-ായി കുറച്ചു. അങ്ങിനെ മുൻകൊല്ലത്തെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ൪൭ ഷാപ്പുകൾ കുറച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ൧൯൦൨-ൽ ആകെ ചെത്തിവന്നിരുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾതെങ്ങ്, പൽമേര, ചൂണ്ടപ്പന എന്നീ മൂന്നിനങ്ങളിലായി൧൨൨൯൪൪-എണ്ണം ഉണ്ട്. ൧൯൦൪-ൽ ൪൭ ഷാപ്പുകളെ കുറച്ചു എങ്കിലും വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണം ൧൨൨൫൫൨ ആയി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ൧൯൦൨നേക്കാൾ ൧൯൦൪-ൽ ൨൫൫൨ വൃക്ഷം കൂടീട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെ വൃക്ഷങ്ങൾ കൂടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കള്ളും അതിനനുസരിച്ചു കൂടുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരുസംശയവുമില്ല. ഇപ്രകാരം കൂടുതലായി ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള കള്ളു് ൧൯൦൨-ൽ കുടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകൾതന്നെ ൧൯൦൪-ലും കുടിച്ചുതീർത്തു എന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. കള്ളു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി കള്ളുകുടിയന്മാരും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നയം അതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശത്തിനു യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിനാൽ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെഎണ്ണവും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഒരു റെസല്യൂഷൻ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവരികയും ആയതു് പാസാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിന്മേൽ യാ

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[Mr. Muruvelil Pachu Pillai.]

ഒരുനടപടിയും നടത്തീട്ടില്ല. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നയംകൊണ്ട് ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ഉദ്ദേശം പ്രായോഗികമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനു സാധിക്ക കയില്ല എന്നു കണ്ടിട്ടാണ് ജനങ്ങൾതന്നെ മദ്യപാനം നിവൃത്തി ഉള്ളി ടത്തോളം നിരോധിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ശ്രമം തുടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അഴു് ഇവിടെ മാത്രമല്ല നടക്കുന്നതു്. അന്യരാജ്യങ്ങളിലും നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. വി ദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ വളരെ മുന്നിട്ടുനില്ക്കുന്ന തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും സകലപരി ഷ്കൃതരാജ്യക്കാരും അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന നടപടികൾ അനുവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിൽ അത്ഭുതപ്പെടാനില്ല. അപ്രകാരം ജനങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളെ ഗവ ണ്മെൻറും സഹായിക്കുകയാണു വേണ്ടതു്. എന്നാൽ മദ്യപാനനിരോ ധനത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ജനങ്ങൾ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നതു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് എതിരാണെ ന്നു ഒരു തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുണ്ട്. അതു യഥാർത്ഥ മല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ വ്യക്തമാക്കുന്ന ഒരു വിജ്ഞാപനം ഗവണ്മെ ൻറു പ്രസിദ്ധംചെയ്താൽ കൊള്ളാം. അതിനോടുകൂടി ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ചില സഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായുണ്ടു്. ഈ വക പ്രചരണജോലികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി മദ്രാസിലും മൈസൂരിലും ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ കുറെ സംഖ്യ ഇവിടെയും നീക്കിവയ്ക്ക ണം. പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളെ പ്ര ചരണവേല ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ കൊള്ളാം. ലോ ക്കൽ ആപ്ഷൻ വേണമെന്നുള്ള എല്ലാമുനിസിപ്പൽ ടൌണുകളിലും അതു പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കുക. ഇതിനും പുറമേ ഓരോപകൃതിയിലും ഒരു ശുപാ കരം കൊടുക്കുന്ന ആളുകളിൽ ൬ ശതമാനവും ഷാപ്പ് അവിടെ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആ ഷാപ്പിനെ നിരുത്തൽചെയ്യ ണം. ഈ സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ചെയ്താലും അതു ഫലപ്പെട്ടുവരണമെങ്കി ൽ ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ എണ്ണം കുറക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ചെത്തുന്ന വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണവും കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള ഈ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെ പ്രായോഗികമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതിനു ഗവ ണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട സഹായം ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി മിസ്റ്റർ കേശവപിള്ളയുടെ ഉപക്ഷേപത്തെ ഞാൻ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what time is still left for the discussion of this Demand?

PRESIDENT: 35 minutes more. That will be because we shall now be going on with the discussion of the adjournment motion which was posted for this afternoon. The balance of the time for this Demand will be given on Monday, *i. e.*, the next sitting day.

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